

Production No. 8F23

The Simpsons

"Brother, Can You Spare Two Dimes?"

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**"BROTHER, CAN YOU SPARE TWO DIMES?"**

**Cast List**

HOMER.....DAN CASTELLANETA  
MARGE.....JULIE KAVNER  
BART.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT  
LISA.....YEARDLEY SMITH  
HERB.....DANNY DEVITO  
GEORGE FOREMAN.....HIMSELF  
BURNS.....HARRY SHEARER  
SMITHERS.....HARRY SHEARER  
MOE.....HANK AZARIA  
BARNEY.....DAN CASTELLANETA  
CARL.....DAN CASTELLANETA  
LENNY.....HARRY SHEARER  
FLANDERS.....HARRY SHEARER  
TODD FLANDERS.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT  
KENT BROCKMAN.....HARRY SHEARER  
PROFESSOR FRINK.....HANK AZARIA  
WILLIAM POWELL LOOKALIKE.DAN CASTELLANETA  
BUM.....HARRY SHEARER  
WOMAN (ON TV).....JULIE KAVNER  
WOMAN.....YEARDLEY SMITH  
FEMALE ANNOUNCER.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT  
FOOTBALL ANNOUNCER.....HARRY SHEARER

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NBC ANCHORMAN.....HARRY SHEARER  
BUM #2.....DAN CASTELLANETA  
DOCTOR.....HANK AZARIA  
LAWYER.....DAN CASTELLANETA  
MOTHER.....JULIE KAVNER  
MOM.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT  
MAN.....HANK AZARIA  
SALESMAN.....HANK AZARIA  
JITTERY PRIVATE.....DAN CASTELLANETA  
ANGRY SERGEANT.....HANK AZARIA

"BROTHER, CAN YOU SPARE TWO DIMES?"

by

John Swartzwelder

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. HOBO JUNGLE

A bunch of BUMS are gathered around a large rusty cookpot. Many of them look like bums we've seen in movies or on TV, including Red Skelton's "Freddie the Freeloader," William Powell's character in "My Man Godfrey," and Charlie Chaplin's beloved "Little Tramp." HERB POWELL, Homer's half-brother, sits with them. He also is dressed like a bum.

BUM

Yeah... I used to be rich. I owned "Mickey Mouse Massage Parlors". Then those Disney bastards shut me down. I said, "Look, I'll change the logo, put Mickey's pants back on". Some guys you just can't reason with.

WILLIAM POWELL LOOKALIKE

Yeah, I wrote many of your favorite songs. (DARKLY) But I got shafted by the record company.

HERB

What songs did you write?

WILLIAM POWELL LOOKALIKE

All your favorites. "My Hat's Too Big  
For Me," "The Dentist Song," "Lord How  
I Hate A Small Town, " "Let's Hear It  
For October Ninth..."

HERB

I don't remember that one.

WILLIAM POWELL LOOKALIKE

(SINGING) "Oh, the Third Day of May  
Is just another day, (SPOKEN)  
Something, something, something  
April twenty-fourth,  
(SINGING) But the best day of all,  
Is right around the start of fall,  
Let's hear it for October Ninth..."

HERB

Well, I used to own a successful car  
company. (CONSPIRATORIALLY) My  
strategy was giving them Japanese  
names. You guys ever drive a Tempura  
Hatchback?

The other bums MURMUR and AD LIB "I got hit by one of  
those," etc.

HERB

Yeah, life was sweet. (BITTER) Then I  
found out I had a long lost half-  
brother.

RIPPLE DISSOLVE  
TO:

**EXT. HERB'S ESTATE**

We see the moment in "Brother Where Art Thou?" when Herb's car window comes down and Herb and HOMER see each other for the first time.

HERB

Homer!

HOMER

Herb?

They embrace.

HERB (V.O.)

I let him design a car that would make  
or break my company.

**INT. POWELL MOTORS SHOWROOM**

We see the unveiling of Homer's car.

FEMALE ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Presenting...The Homer!

Herb falls to his knees and puts his hands over his face.

HERB

I'm ruined!

DISSOLVE TO:

A Forbes magazine cover of Herb and "The Homer."

HERB (V.O.)

Forbes Magazine called it the "Blunder  
of the Century." A little overblown,  
don't you think? What about new Coke?  
What about the Hindenberg? What about  
Vietnam?

RIPPLE DISSOLVE  
BACK TO:

EXT. HOBO JUNGLE

WILLIAM POWELL LOOKALIKE

What a poignant story.

HERB

Yeah, but all that's in the past.

Because this is America and in America  
you're never finished as long as you've  
got a brain in your head. Because all  
a man really needs is an idea.

BUM

Yeah, what's your idea?

HERB

Pre-mixed peanut butter and jelly.

WILLIAM POWELL LOOKALIKE

I think they've already got that.

BUM

And even if they don't -- eh.

Herb slumps, dejected.

INT. POWER PLANT - MAIN WORK AREA

A very long line of workers are lined up in their underwear including Homer, LENNY, CARL and CHARLIE. There is a sign on the room that says "Annual Plant Physical - NO JOKES." They are holding a handful of official looking forms. Lenny is completely nude, though we cannot see whether he's anatomically correct or not.

HOMER

Forgot there was a physical today, huh?

LENNY

Yeah. (BEAT) Hey, Homer, can I borrow  
your underwear?

HOMER

(THINKS) Nah.

**INT. MEDICAL TESTING AREA**

DOCTORS are watching and making notes on clipboards as employees are put through a battery of tests. We see employees on treadmills, stair-climbs, getting angiograms, x-rays and those magnetic resonance things, etc.

**INT. TESTING AREA**

We see a DOCTOR holding up a clipboard that says "SIMPSON". The doctor reads the monitor.

DOCTOR

(SHOCKED) This can't be right. This  
man has 104% body fat!

He looks over in a immersion tank, and sees Homer eating a chicken leg.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Hey, no eating in the tank!

HOMER

Go to hell.

**ON LENNY**

As he exits a cubicle and walks over to Carl smirking.

LENNY

I got even with those pushy doctors. I  
took a whiz in this beaker.

**INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - THAT NIGHT**

Homer comes in. MARGE is getting dinner ready.



MARGE

How was your day at work, dear?

HOMER

Oh, the usual. Stand in front of this,  
open that, pull down this, bend over,  
spread apart that, turn your head that  
way, cough...

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

We start CLOSE ON a wall. Suddenly the CAT flies by.  
PULL BACK to see LISA has thrown it on the couch. BART  
talks into a spoon, as if it were a microphone.

BART

It's been an exciting day here at the  
Living Room Olympics. Lisa Simpson has  
just set a new world's record in the  
cat put. Many suspect she's a man.

LISA

Bart!

BART

Moving on to our next event, the always  
controversial "couch vault".

Representing the Soviet Union, Bartov  
the Great.

Bart picks up a broom stick and prepares to pole vault over  
the arms of the couch onto the cushions.

BART (CONT'D)

I do this for Mother Russia.

Bart vaults onto the couch -- it **COLLAPSES** into a heap.  
The arms fall off. Bart jumps off the couch.

HOMER (O.S.)

What the hell are you two... (SHRIEKS)

Homer enters the room and sees the broken couch.

HOMER

(SOBS) Oh, my couch! The arms, the seat... the dream is over. All right, who did this?

BART

(INNOCENT) We were just sitting on the couch, quietly chatting, when we heard a creaking noise.

LISA

(DRAMATIC) We leapt off just in time to see it collapse.

Bart hugs Lisa.

BART

There, there. You're safe now, little sister.

Homer sadly looks at the couch.

HOMER

Well, why did this have to happen now, during primetime, when TV's brightest stars come out to shine!?

HOMER (CONT'D)

(TURNS TO COUCH) Oh, goodbye, old girl. We've had a lot of great memories.

Homer pats the couch affectionately.

DREAM DISSOLVE  
TO:

### HOMER'S MEMORIES

of sitting on the couch watching TV. He gets fatter and balder as the years pass.

WOMAN (ON TV)

"That's right, I shot J.R."

HOMER

(GASPS)

MATCH DISSOLVE  
TO:

FOOTBALL ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

"The Memphis Showboats make USFL  
history by defeating the Oakland  
Invaders 57 to 10."

HOMER

Woo-hoo!

MATCH DISSOLVE  
TO:

We see Bart, Lisa and Marge holding hands with people o.s.  
Homer looks at TV.

KENT BROCKMAN (V.O.)

"Except for huge gaps in the Western  
states, Hands Across America was a  
complete success."

BART/LISA/MARGE

(SINGING) "Hands across America... "

Homer wipes a tear from his eye.

MATCH DISSOLVE  
TO:

We see Homer watching an NBC anchorman with a speech impediment.

NBC ANCHORMAN (V.O. ON TV)

"Well, I never thought I'd see it.  
They're dancing on the Berlin Wall.  
These lithe and lively lovers of  
liberation...

HOMER

Boring.

Homer switches the channel.

JITTERY PRIVATE (V.O.)

Sorry I ruined your date Sergeant  
Carter.

ANGRY SERGEANT (V.O.)

Pyle!

Homer **CHUCKLES** appreciatively.

MATCH DISSOLVE  
TO:

# THE PRESENT

Homer looks sadly at the couch.

HOMER

Well friend, you're going back where  
you came from. The curb in front of  
Flanders' house.

# INT. POWER PLANT

SMITHERS looking through a microscope as BURNS approaches.

SMITHERS

Sir, I'm afraid Homer Simpson is  
sterile.

BURNS

Who?

SMITHERS

One of your cabbage heads from Sector  
7-G. Take a look at this sperm sample  
from his recent physical.

**BURNS' POV THROUGH MICROSCOPE**

It's blurry at first, then begins to focus. We see three  
sperm, all looking somewhat like Homer, banging heads and  
falling to the bottom of the slide. One of the sperms has  
three eyes.

BURNS

Ewww.

SMITHERS (V.O.)

Now, compare this with a normal sperm  
sample.

A new slide replaces the old one. It has numerous sperms  
which have glasses and look like Smithers. They swim in a  
very orderly fashion.

SMITHERS (V.O.)

I'm afraid radiation from the plant is  
the reason he is shooting blanks. He  
could sue us for millions.

**BACK TO SCENE**

BURNS

Millions!? Mother of pearl. Call my  
lawyers!

INT. PLANT - HOMER'S WORK STATION - NEXT MORNING

Homer comes in, **KNOCKS OVER** something radioactive, steps in a bucket of something radioactive, falls against an instrument panel that lets out a bunch of **SPARKS** and dims the lights in the plant, then sits down in his chair. He puts his glowing feet up on the console and begins eating a contaminated sandwich.

INT. BURNS' OFFICE

Burns is pacing and glaring at his assembled LEGAL STAFF.  
(THE ONES FROM "BART GETS HIT BY A CAR.")

BURNS

Before you begin, let me make one thing clear to you. I want your legal advice. I even pay for it. But to me you're all vipers. You live on personal injury. You live on divorces. You live on pain and misery...(GETS HOLD OF HIMSELF)...but I'm rambling. Anybody want any coffee?

LAWYER

I'll have some coffee.

Burns pours some coffee.

BURNS

Want it black, don't you? Black like your heart! It's so hard for me to listen to you, I hate you all so much... I'm sorry. It's my problem. I'll deal with it. Please continue.

LAWYER

If you offer Mr. Simpson a token sum --  
say, a couple thou -- he'll be so  
dazzled, he'll sign anything you shove  
under his nose.

BURNS

(SNEERING) Oh, brilliant. A cash  
settlement. I could have figured that  
out, you button-down maggot.

LAWYER

Do you have any cream?

BURNS

Oh yes, of course. Where are my  
manners?

**INT. PARK - DAY**

Herb sits on a bench, trying to think of an idea.

**[NOTE: RECORD THIS SPEECH AND THE ONE WHICH FOLLOWS.]**

HERB

Let's see, I need an idea... Just find  
a need and fill it. How about a  
structure of some kind... to protect me  
from the elements... like a, a  
house!... Oh, wait, they have those  
already... I got it -- something you  
could wear over your clothes to keep  
you warm. Oh wait, that's a coat.  
Damn this vicious cycle of poverty.

From the next bench we hear a **BABY CRYING**. Herb looks over, interested.

MOTHER

What do you want? I just changed your diaper. Are you hungry? Are you cold? Do you want to go home?

HERB

Lady, you just gave me the idea of a lifetime. How do I thank you?

MOTHER

(SCARED) Please don't hurt me.

HERB

Consider it done.

**INT. PLANT - HOMER'S WORK STATION**

Homer is gloomily flipping random switches on his control panel on and off. Lenny and Carl walk out.

LENNY

Hey pal, I heard about the couch.

CARL

(PATS ON SHOULDER) Yeah, you gonna to be okay?

HOMER

(TOUCHING CARL'S HAND) Yeah. You know, my life just can't get any worse.

There is a long pause, as if someone has missed their cue. Homer, Carl, and Lenny look at each other, then up at the camera.



HOMER (CONT'D)

That's right. There's no way my life  
could possibly get any worse.

There is another long beat. Finally, Smithers' voice comes  
over the P.A.

SMITHERS (V.O.)

(OVER P.A.) Simpson! Report to Mr.  
Burns' office at once!

HOMER

(ANNOYED GRUNT)

**INT. BURNS' OFFICE**

The lawyers are present. Homer enters.

BURNS

(ASIDE TO SMITHERS) Is this the one  
with the cooked cojones?

Smithers nods.

SMITHERS

Hmmm hmmm.

BURNS

Ah, Simpson, you big virile son-of-a-  
gun. How would you like a check for  
two-thousand dollars?

HOMER

Would I! (SUSPICIOUS) Wait a minute.  
Homer Simpson didn't just ride into  
town on a load of melons. What do I  
have to do for this two thousand bucks?

BURNS

Doh, there's no catch. All you have to do is sign this form.

HOMER

No catch, eh. What do you take me for, Burns? I'm not signing anything until I read it, or somebody gives me the gist of it.

BURNS

(DISGUSTED NOISE) All right, well, it just explains that you've won -- yeah, that's it -- won the first annual... Montgomery Burns... uh... Award for... a-a-a Outstanding Achievement in...a-a-th... th.. the field of... uh, Excellence!

HOMER

Wow. The most prestigious award of them all.

Homer starts to sign the forms, but stops.

HOMER

Don't I get some kind of trophy? At a big award ceremony?

Burns looks at his lawyers. They nod.

**EXT. SPRINGFIELD CIVIC CENTER - ESTABLISHING**

We see searchlights and a marquee which reads: "FIRST ANNUAL MONTGOMERY BURNS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN THE FIELD OF EXCELLENCE."

INT. SPRINGFIELD CIVIC CENTER - CONTINUOUS

A gala black-tie awards ceremony is in progress. On stage is a giant award, a la the Oscars. The place is packed and a production number is finishing.

SINGERS

(SINGING) "It's the first annual  
Montgomery Burns/ Award for --

MEN SINGERS

(SINGING) Outstanding Achievement In -

FEMALE SINGERS

(SINGING) The Field of --

SINGERS

(SINGING) Excellence!"

The SINGERS run off. Burns comes out in a tuxedo,  
CLAPPING.

BURNS

Yess... that was Bonita De Wolf & and  
the Springfield Nuclear Plant Soft Shoe  
Society.

LISA

This Award is the biggest farce I ever  
saw.

BART

What about the Grammys?

LISA

Okay, the biggest farce I've ever been  
to.

BURNS

And now to present the award, here's  
former heavyweight champion, Big George  
Foreman.

GEORGE FOREMAN comes through the curtain.

**INT. AUDITORIUM - PRESIDENTIAL BOX - CONTINUOUS**

The Simpsons, dressed in black tie, **APPLAUD.**

**ON STAGE**

George Foreman reads from an envelope.

GEORGE FOREMAN

The American Heritage dictionary  
defines excellence as "the quality or  
condition of being excellent". And  
now, the winner of the First Annual  
Montgomery Burns Award For Outstanding  
Achievement in the Field of Excellence.

**ON HOMER - IN AUDIENCE**

He crosses his fingers.

HOMER

Please please please please please...

LISA

Dad, you know you won.

HOMER

Don't jinx it!

**ON STAGE**

GEORGE FOREMAN

(READING ENVELOPE) Homer Simpson!

HOMER

Oh, my God!!

Homer looks ecstatic. Flash bulbs flash.

MATCH DISSOLVE  
TO:

**HOMER'S PICTURE IN THE PAPER**

The picture is moving up and down slightly as if it is covering a sleeping man's face. PULL OUT TO REVEAL:

**EXT. TRAIN YARD**

Several bums stand around a trashcan with a fire in it. One bum is sleeping with the Springfield Shopper that has Homer's picture on it over his face. Herb is nearby.

HERB

I'm telling you, all a man needs is an idea. And I've got an idea.

BUM #2

Then how come you're still a bum?

HERB

All right. I've amended my premise. A man needs two things, an idea and money to get it off the ground. (BEAT)  
Hello, what's this?

Herb sees the paper, does a double-take, then snatches the paper away and begins reading it.

HERB (CONT'D)

(READING) "Local man, Homer Simpson, receives award and \$2,000 check."

Hmmm... (TO BUM) Any of you guys know which freight goes to Springfield?

BUM #2

Springfield Illinois?

HERB

No.

BUM #2

Springfield Massachusetts?

HERB

Uh-uh.

BUM #2

Springfield --

The name of the state is cut off by a **LOUD TRAIN WHISTLE**.

HERB

That's the one.

The bum points to a train that's **PULLING AWAY**.

**ON HERB**

He runs alongside the freight and jumps on as it picks up speed and **RACES OUT** of sight.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. MOE'S TAVERN - NIGHT

Homer is sitting at the bar in his tux. In front of him is his award. Next to him is George Foreman and BARNEY.

GEORGE FOREMAN

Keep those pickled eggs comin', Moe.

MOE

You cleaned me out big George.

There is a pickled-egg on the bar with a big bite taken out of it.

GEORGE FOREMAN

Hey Homer, you gonna finish that?

HOMER

Nah, you go ahead.

MOE

What's the matter Homer? If anyone should be depressed it's me.

(BITTERLY) Nary a mention in your acceptance speech.

HOMER

(SADLY) I miss my couch.

GEORGE FOREMAN

I know how you feel. You lost a couch.

I lost a heavyweight championship.

HOMER

Pfft! Heavyweight championship.  
There's like three of those. That  
couch was one of a kind.

GEORGE FOREMAN

Homer, I know it's tough now. But one  
day you'll be walking down the street  
and you'll see a piece of furniture  
that you can love just as much.

BARNEY

Hey, Foreman, shut up!

GEORGE FOREMAN

Barney, you've been riding me all  
night.

BARNEY

Oh yeah? Care to step outside?

He makes a fist.

GEORGE FOREMAN

Let's do it.

They step outside. We hear a short violent **FIGHT**. Barney  
walks back in dusting his hands. He shakes fist at Moe.

BARNEY

(MENACINGLY) Now how about one on  
credit, Moe?

MOE

No.

BARNEY

(MOANS)



HOMER

(FINISHING BEER) Moe, I think I'm gonna  
take a walk.

He exits the bar, stepping over George Foreman, who lies on  
the ground.

GEORGE FOREMAN

Since Zaire I've never made excuses. I  
don't wanna take anything away from the  
guy. He'll make a great champion. But  
while I was taking off my coat, he hit  
me with a trash can.

Homer walks down the street.

HOMER

I feel so empty, so alone, so  
couchless.

Homer walks past a closed furniture store. He looks in the  
display window and **GASPS**.

**HOMER'S POV**

He is looking at a vibrating chair. A mannequin sits in it  
vibrating. A **HEAVENLY CHOIR SINGS** "It Only Takes A  
Moment."

**BACK TO SCENE**

HOMER

Wow. The Spine Melter 2000.

MATCH DISSOLVE  
TO:

**INT. FURNITURE STORE - THE NEXT DAY**

Homer sits in the vibrating chair. The store is now open  
and the rest of the Simpsons look on.

HOMER

Give me full power.

SALESMAN

But sir...

HOMER

Dammit, I said full power!

The SALESMAN adjusts a knob on the chair. Homer starts **VIBRATING**.

**HOMER'S POV**

The world starts shaking and blurring. Colors rush by him a la "2001 A Space Odyssey."

**CU HOMER**

Homer has a blissful look a la Keir Dullea. **INTERCUT** scene a couple of times.

LISA (V.O.)

Dad? Dad?

**BACK TO SCENE**

We see Homer has nearly slid off the chair. He looks blissful. He head is **BANGING** on the foot of the chair.

HOMER

(BEING VIBRATED) I'll take it.

The salesman **SHUTS OFF** the chair.

MARGE

This chair is \$2,000. We could buy a whole living room set for that.

HOMER

Marge, there's an empty spot I've always had inside me. I tried to fill it with family, religion, community service. But those were dead ends. I think this chair is the answer.

MARGE

This money was a blessing. We can't just spend it on some creature comfort. We should do something to improve our lives.

BART

Hey, you gotta spend that do-re-mi. 'cause it can only go so fa.

MARGE

Where'd you get that?

BART

Sesame Street. Bert and Ernie sang it.

MARGE

They did not! (TO SALESMAN) We'll think about it.

HOMER

Okay, fine. Now excuse me while I kiss the sky.

Homer sits back on the chair and turns it on. He makes vibrating GURGLES.

EXT. FLANDERS' HOUSE

Herb is standing on the sidewalk in front of the Flanders' house. He looks at the slip of paper in his hand that has Homer's address on it. The street number is a little smudged. He looks at the number on the Flanders' house. After a moment's uncertainty he walks up and **KNOCKS** on the door.

INT. FLANDERS' HOUSE

FLANDERS opens the door.

FLANDERS

Yes?

HERB

(CONFUSED) Oh...uh...sorry, I must have the wrong house.

FLANDERS

Ho, ho, that's where you're wrong, friend.

MAUDE joins Ned at the door.

FLANDERS (CONT'D)

(TO MAUDE) Aren't we in luck? Today's our tithe day and we have a transient. Come in my friend. Let us feed and bathe you.

Flanders leads Herb into the house.

HERB

Hey wait a minute...

TODD FLANDERS enters with an armload of wraps.

TODD

Dad, can I anoint the sores on his feet?

FLANDERS

I think it's Mom's turn, son.

TODD

Ah, no fair.

**EXT. FLANDERS'S HOUSE - A LITTLE LATER**

Herb comes out the front door. He's wearing one of Flanders' suits.

HERB

Thanks for the suit.

FLANDERS

You sure you can't spend the night?

Maude and I can sleep on card tables.

HERB

Let me tell you something, as a guy  
whose worn out shoes have walked every  
dirt road in this country. You people  
are freaks. And I mean that nicely.

TODD

(SINGS) "Onward Christian soldiers..."

The rest of the family joins in.

FLANDERS FAMILY

(SINGING) "Marching as to war, etc..."

**INT. SIMPSON HOUSE**

Homer is sitting in an uncomfortable chair, next to the broken couch. He overhears **SINGING** next door.

HOMER

They're singing again. Lousy  
neighbors. Wish I were deaf.

The doorbell **RINGS**. Homer goes to the door.

**EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE**

Herb stands on the front porch.

HERB

(TO SELF) What am I gonna say? This is the guy who ruined me. But on the other hand, he's family. So many conflicting emotions. How to express them...

Homer opens the door.

HOMER

Herb!

Herb punches Homer in the face. Homer **GRUNTS**.

**INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM**

Herb enters as Homer holds his jaw. The kids see Herb and rush up to hug him.

BART & LISA

(JOYOUSLY) Unky Herb!

HERB

Bart... Lisa. I'm so glad to see you.

HOMER

(RUBBING JAW) You weren't so glad to see me.

HERB

I'm sorry, Homer. But I'm still mad at you. Every word you say just makes me want to punch you in the face.

HOMER

Well, while you're a guest in my home,  
can you restrain that impulse?

HERB

I'll try, but I'm not making any  
promises.

Marge enters.

MARGE

(GASPS) Herb! How have you been?

HERB

I've been living in a cardboard box,  
sleeping on grates, eating out of  
dumpsters. You?

MARGE

Can't complain.

HOMER

Herb, let me give you the grand tour.  
This is one of our many light switches.  
It functions in both the on and off  
mode.

Homer flicks the switch on and off.

HOMER (CONT'D)

On... off... on... off.

MARGE

Homer, he knows how to work a light  
switch.

HOMER

Oh, yeah. Right. (MOVES TO SECOND SWITCH) I don't know what this switch does.

Homer flicks the switch on and off.

**EXT. SIMPSONS HOUSE - ROOF**

We see colored lights that says "MERRY CHRISTMAS, AND A HAPPY 1985" flashing on and off.

**INT. SIMPSONS HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY**

The family is giving Herb a tour of the house.

**INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - DINING ROOM - THAT NIGHT**

Herb and the Simpsons are eating dinner.

HERB

This is really great, Marge.

MARGE

Why thank you, Herb.

HERB

I haven't had food this good since...well, actually your next door neighbor makes an excellent shrimp scampi...

MARGE

(A LITTLE TIGHTLY) Maude Flanders is a very good cook.

Herb notices Lisa eating silently.

HERB

Lisa, aren't you happy to see me?



LISA

Why didn't you write, Unky Herb?

HERB

Hey if I wrote to you what was I  
supposed to say? "Dear Lisa,  
last night I ate a pigeon, thanks to  
your Pop?"

LISA

I see your point.

BART

Unky Herb, what advice would you give  
to a boy who will most likely become a  
bum like yourself?

HERB

Discarded pizza boxes are an  
inexpensive source of cheese.

**EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING**

**INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - MAGGIE'S ROOM - NIGHT**

Herb is putting Maggie to sleep. He **SINGS** the Powell  
Motors Song.

HERB

(SINGS SOFTLY) "Whether you're driving  
near or far / Powell makes a pow-pow-  
powerful car!"

Herb tucks her in.

HERB (CONT'D)

I'm gonna let you in on a little  
secret, Maggie. You're gonna make me  
rich again. (BABY TALK) Yes-oo are!  
Yes-oo are!

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The Simpsons and Herb are on the floor playing Monopoly.  
Herb ROLLS the dice, moves his piece.

HERB

1,2,3...Ventnor Avenue.

LISA

And while on Ventnor Avenue you'll be  
staying at the fabulous Hotel Lisa. A  
valet will be around shortly to park  
your thimble. Of course, there is the  
unpleasant matter of the bill.

HERB

Get to the point.

LISA

(MERCILESS) Eleven hundred and fifty  
bones.

Herb hands her all his money.

HERB

That's all I got.

HOMER

(AMUSED) Broke again, eh Herb? Just  
like in real life. Heh heh. I guess  
you're just not much of a businessman.

HERB

(SMACKING FIST) You're cruisin'...  
you're cruisin'...

MARGE

Maybe we should play another game.  
We've got Sorry, Aggravation...

BART

Hey, we got two grand in the bank! Why  
are we playing board games when we  
could be making the club scene?

HOMER

(LYING) Wait Marge, didn't you want to  
spend that money on a vibrating chair?

MARGE

That was your idea!

LISA

While we're on the subject, I think we  
should invest in a set of the great  
books of Western Civilization. Look at  
this ad from "New Republic for Kids."  
Each month a new classic will be  
delivered to our door: "Paradise  
Regained," "Martin Chuzzlewit," or  
Herman Melville's twin classics "Omoo"  
and "Typee".

BART

I think we should get a machine gun.  
We could use it to hunt game, spell out  
things, or ring in the new year!

MARGE

Well, I really think we need to replace  
the washer and dryer.

**INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS**

We see a washer and dryer **VIBRATING** all over the room. The  
cat looks terrified he'll be caught in their path.

**BACK TO SCENE**

HERB

How would you like to spend 2,000  
dollars to give a broken man a second  
chance?

HOMER

Nah.

MARGE

Homer, wait. Herb, what're you talking  
about?

HERB

Up-up-up-up. Not here. Come on into  
the dining room. I'll want to give you  
a twenty-minute presentation that will  
change the world.

HOMER

(WHINY) Twenty minutes?!

HERB

Okay, okay. I'll make it ten.

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - DINING ROOM

The family is seated around the dining room table looking expectant.

HERB

Okay. Now, before I tell you about my  
idea, I'd like to show you this.

Herb puts a drinking bird toy on the table. Homer is immediately delighted and amazed.

HOMER

(POINTING) It's drinking the water!

HERB

Take it easy, Homer. Now this is an  
example of how one little idea --  
carefully marketed...

HOMER

That's the greatest invention in the  
world! You'll make a million dollars!

HERB

(PATIENTLY) No, Homer. That invention  
is out already. I'm just using it as  
an example.

HOMER

(CHUCKLES) It's going back for more!

Herb picks up the bird and puts it down next to the chair.

HOMER

(DISAPPOINTED SOUND)

HERB

Homer, this is my invention.

Herb holds up a set of blueprints.

HERB (CONT'D)

Now, of course, with these blueprints  
you'll have to use your imagination.

**HOMER'S IMAGINATION**

The lines on the blueprints move around awkwardly, bang into each other, then finally form the drinking bird.

**BACK TO SCENE**

HERB

It's a baby translator. It measures the pitch, the frequency, and the urgency of a baby's cries. Then it tells whoever's around -- in plain English -- exactly what the baby is trying to say. Everything from "Change me" to "Turn off that damn Raffi record."

MARGE

(IMPRESSED) That's a very clever idea!

HERB

All I need is a couple thousand dollars to build a prototype. You'll have your money back in thirty days. I swear.

HOMER

Herb, listen to me. I've got three kids, and the best part about a baby is you can't understand what it's saying.

HERB

Homer, I've said my piece. I'll just leave the room and let all of you decide.

Herb exits.

BART

Dad, you give me my machine gun and I can have your money back in a couple of hours. Don't ask how.

LISA

Bart, we owe a debt to Unky Herb. He took us into his home and Dad destroyed him.

HOMER

You know, I'm pretty sick of hearing about that. So I ruin one lousy Fortune 500 company. Big deal. What about the other 499 I didn't ruin?

MARGE

I move we put it to a vote.

LISA

Second. All in favor of loaning Unky Herb the two-thousand dollars say "Aye".

MARGE/LISA

Aye!

HOMER

Nay! (TO BART) Well, boy, it's all up  
to you.

Bart looks at Marge.

MARGE

Bart, I don't care how you vote as long  
as you vote nicely.

HOMER

I'll love you either way, but I want  
you to vote nay.

BART

I vote aye.

Homer **GROWLS** and starts **STRANGLING** Bart.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO



ACT THREE

**FADE IN:**

**MONTAGE:**

Herb is developing his baby translator.

**A) INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - MAGGIE'S ROOM - DAY**

OPEN ON an oscilloscope labelled, "Oscilloscopes 4 Less". We see a wave pattern and hear a **BABY FUSSING**. PULL BACK to see Maggie is **WHINING** with Herb looking on and holding a clipboard.

HERB

Now, let's see... What could you be trying to say? (CHECKING MAGGIE'S DIAPER) Nothing downstairs... You just took a nap...

Maggie starts **SUCKING** his nose.

HERB (CONT'D)

(HOLDING NOSE) "I want to suck your nose."

He writes on his clipboard.

**B) CLOSE UP - HERB - A LITTLE LATER**

Herb is wearing a monkey mask.

HERB

Ooga booga! Ooga booga!

Maggie makes a **BABY NOISE**.

HERB (CONT'D)

(WRITING ON CLIPBOARD) "I'm scared."

**C) INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Herb and Maggie are on the floor. Bart watches them from the couch. Maggie makes a **NOISE**.

HERB

Hmm... the amplitude of the sine wave  
is insufficient for "Burp Me", and this  
saw-tooth formation is something I've  
never...

Maggie **BARFS** in Herb's face.

HERB (CONT'D)

Eureka.

BART

Unky Herb, you're killing yourself.

HERB

Well, the Springfield Baby Expo is  
coming up and...

BART

You just don't get it, do you. Hard  
work is for the other guy. Everyday  
Uncle Sugar is handing out billions of  
dollars to any deadbeat with a sob  
story. (WINKS) There ain't no lid on  
that cookie jar.

HERB

Bart, where did you pick that up?

BART

Sesame Street. (OFF HERB'S LOOK) Well,  
you gotta read between the lines.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The family is gathered around to see Herb's prototype, which is under a cloth. Herb stands in his suit. Maggie is dressed up in a cute baby outfit.

HERB

Now, I bet you're all wondering what lies under this sheet.

BART

Not really. We peeked inside while you were in the john.

HERB

Oh. Well, here it is again. My "Baby Translator!"

Herb unveils a clumsy-looking device composed of wires and lights with a speaker on one side. The Simpsons stare at it for a beat.

MARGE

(TOO BIG) Whooooa!!

HERB

Marge, you don't have to humor me.

MARGE

Well, it's pretty ingrained.

HERB

What do you think, Homer?

HOMER

Herb, this is the stupidest thing I've ever seen. I can't believe we blew two thousand bucks on it, when right now rollers could be kneading my buttocks.

HERB

Homer, could you stop thinking about  
your ass!

HOMER

I try, but I can't.

Maggie makes a **NOISE**.

HERB'S VOICE

(THROUGH BABY TRANSLATOR) Lavish  
attention on me and entertain me.

MARGE

(GASPS) Maggie, you talked!

HERB

You see! It tells you exactly what's  
on the baby's mind. Takes the guess  
work out of parenting.

LISA

(COVERING FACE) Maggie! Maggie!

Maggie makes a **NOISE**.

HERB'S VOICE

(THROUGH BABY TRANSLATOR) Where did  
you go?

Lisa uncovers her face.

LISA

Peek-a-boo!

Maggie **LAUGHS**.

HERB'S VOICE

(THROUGH BABY TRANSLATOR) Oh, there  
you are. Very amusing.

HERB

Well, Homer, now what do you think?

HOMER

I dunno, Herb. People are afraid of  
new things. You should have taken an  
existing product and put a clock in it  
or something.

MARGE

Homer, every mother in the country is  
going to want one of these.

Maggie makes a NOISE.

HERB'S VOICE

(THROUGH BABY TRANSLATOR) I have  
soiled myself. How embarrassing.

**EXT. SPRINGFIELD CIVIC CENTER - DAY**

A banner outside reads, "Today, Baby Expo. Tu-Fr, Twin  
Convention. NO TRIPLETS!"

**INT. BABY EXPO**

CAMERA PANS through the hall which is packed with booths  
displaying new kinds of baby toys and baby related items.  
We can see revolving platforms with BABY MODELS pointing  
unsteadily at new products and falling over as the platform  
revolves.

The CAMERA PANS past several booths, including a booth that  
has a large sign that says "Dog-In-A-Ball". In front of the  
booth is a large plastic ball with a real full size dog in  
it. A BABY is pushing at the ball. The dog inside is  
baffled. A banner says "Babies Love To Play With Dog-In-A-  
Ball".

The CAMERA PAUSES when it gets to PROFESSOR FRINK. He is flying a BABY around in a model airplane.

PROFESSOR FRINK

This radio controlled, gas-powered plane gives junior the opportunity to see if he's got "The Right Stuff." He can execute the barrel roll... loop-de-loop... then bring it in for the perfect landing.

The Baby Plane executes these stunts, then flies out a window.

PROFESSOR FRINK (CONT'D)

Whoop, oh dear. My brother is going to kill me.

EXT. KREMLIN - DAY

We see Frink's plane, with the baby still inside, land on Red Square.

ON HERB

He is mobbed by excited PARENTS and their BABIES. One BABY CRIES.

HERB'S VOICE

(THROUGH BABY TRANSLATOR) I only want to eat candy!

MOM

(HAPPILY) Then that's all you'll get.

A BABY passes by on a baby leash.

HERB'S VOICE

(THROUGH BABY TRANSLATOR) This leash demeans us both.

WOMAN

I'll take two.

MAN

I'll take a dozen!

MAN #2

I represent the "Precious Baby Discount  
Shop". I'll take 50,000.

Herb holds up two handfuls of money.

HERB

I'm rich again! USA! USA! USA!

MATCH DISSOLVE  
TO:

**CLOSE UP - MAGAZINE COVER**

The cover of the latest Forbes Magazine spins out. It has Herb holding his money, standing next to his translator with Maggie on it. The caption reads: "The Return of Blunder Boy". PULL BACK to see Herb holding the magazine.

HERB

(GROWLS)

He throws the magazine away.

**INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - A FEW DAYS LATER**

Herb, wearing a nice suit, is saying good-bye to the family. Herb carries a little bag. He hands Homer a check.

HERB

Homer, here's a check for two-thousand dollars. But I also wanted to give you each a little something for believing in me. (HANDS LISA BOOK) Lisa, this is the first volume of The Great Books of Western Civilization. You'll receive a new one every month. From "Beowulf" to "Less Than Zero."

LISA

Finally, a copy of "Pilgrim's Progress" to call my own.

HERB (CONT'D)

Now Bart, I know you're too young for the machine gun you wanted. But I'm going to give you something that'll make sure when you're old enough you can still buy one. A membership in the National Rifle Association.

BART

Wow! The NRA. You know, they visited my school five times this year. Will I be able to get teflon-coated armored piercing bullets, too?

HERB

It's in the Constitution, son.

He turns to Maggie.



HERB (CONT'D)

Maggie, who brought me my fortune I'll  
give you anything you want in this  
world.

Maggie makes a **NOISE**.

HOMER

(CROSSING FINGERS) New car new car new  
car!

HERB'S VOICE

(THROUGH BABY TRANSLATOR) I want what  
the dog's eating.

HOMER

(ANNOYED GRUNT)

HERB

(TO MAGGIE) I'll fix you up nice. Now  
Marge...

MARGE

Herb, I appreciate your generosity, but  
I don't need any gift from you.

HERB

You're too late, Marge. I got you a  
new washer and dryer. They're already  
downstairs and I sold the old ones for  
fifty bucks.

Herb hands Marge the money.

**INT. MOE'S TAVERN - CONTINUOUS**

The old washer and dryer are racing towards a finish line taped on the floor. The numbers "55" and "17" are painted on them.

BARNEY

Come on washer!

The dryer peels off and goes in the wrong direction. The washer crosses the finish line. The BARFLIES CHEER.

MOE

(HITS DRYER) Oh, you stupid dryer!

**INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Homer looks sad.

HOMER

Herb, I don't think there's a vibrating chair in that bag for me.

HERB

Homer, walk me to my car.

**EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - CONTINUOUS**

Homer walks Herb to his car.

HOMER

What do I get? What do I get? It's not another punch in the face is it? Because if it is, I don't want it.

HERB

This is what you get, Homer. I forgive you. You can call me brother and I can do the same.

HOMER

That's it?

HERB

That's it.

HOMER

(SINCERELY) I see your point, brother.

HERB

Gimme a hug, brother.

HOMER

All right...but I never really hugged a  
man before.

They hug tentatively.

**ANOTHER ANGLE**

In the doorway of the house, the Simpsons look on and smile.

**BACK TO SCENE**

A delivery truck pulls in the driveway.

HERB

Homer, I bought you the damn chair.

HOMER

Thank you, brother!

Homer enthusiastically **KISSES** Herb several times.

DISSOLVE TO:

**INT. SIMPSON - LIVING ROOM - A FEW WEEKS LATER**

The Simpsons have a new couch that looks like their old one. Homer sits blissfully in his vibrating chair.

**CLOSE UP - HOMER'S SPERM**

They're vibrating and happy. Credits vibrate over them.

FADE OUT.

THE END